

a few years, and if at the end of that time they wished to go back to their mother they could decide, but meanwhile he should send them to school and if she—Mrs. Mamie—interfered he would have her arrested for deserting them when she did.

Now what could Mrs. Mamie do but just go away and let other people take care of her children? Which she did, and Pete still sends the little girls to school and they all live together as happy as a family can be. The wrong kind of education might have destroyed this man's innate decency, but poverty and ignorance never moved him an inch from what he felt was his manifest duty.

THE TRAINING SCHOOLS FOR NURSES AT BORDEAUX*

BY DR. ANNA HAMILTON

IN presenting to this Conference the accompanying printed and illustrated reports of the Bordeaux schools I desire to emphasize two features of their organization which seem to me essential to their usefulness and success.

First. The school of nurses is attached to a hospital and constitutes its nursing staff. Second. The Director of school and hospital is a woman. We hold that the value of training depends on these two points.

This declaration may seem to be superfluous to the majority of the members of this Conference. For, in the audience before me I see numerous training-school superintendents and matrons, who, beginning as probationers, have passed step by step through every grade of hospital work until, having reached the highest positions, they represent to-day all those their colleagues, with whom they are now training thousands of nurses and directing the nursing of important hospitals.

But in France, the directresses of civil hospitals may be counted upon the fingers, and Paris has not a single one! Therefore it is with deep joy that we salute all the present heads of hospital training schools for nurses. Their presence here proves that the system of hospital schools inaugurated at Bordeaux is not utopian, but a simple adaptation of the method recognized abroad as being excellent, and which was initiated by the pioneer nurse, the heroine of the Crimea, the venerated Florence Nightingale.

The Protestant Hospital of Bordeaux,† at present a general hos-

* Read at the Conference on Nursing in Paris, June, 1907.

† The following outline is condensed from the historical part of the reports given to the Conference. L. L. D.



DR. ANNA HAMILTON,
in her University robes.

pital, was opened in 1863 for the benefit of Protestant sailors; but it was not limited to them, but received gratuitously all indigent patients of the protestant faith, and, in 1871, a service for sick children was added. Its growth was steady (now including obstetrics and gynecology), and, from the outset, the founders had desired to associate a nursing institute with it, having at first thought of taking nurses taught elsewhere and placing them in the hospital or at private duty.

In 1884 the managers determined to alter this method. The superintendent of the hospital, who was a woman, Mme. Mommeja, records her dissatisfaction that hospitals should have to seek hither and yon for their nurses instead of training them, and urges the establishment of a course of training. She states that the managers have arranged to take pupils but that none present themselves. (Report of 1885.) The only result of the managers' efforts was that courses of lectures were started, at which a numerous audience of women, mostly married, presented themselves, but this did not supply the hospital with nurses. Women of leisure, however, were so taken with these lecture courses that in 1887 they persuaded the "Society to Aid Wounded Soldiers" to give them its diploma after passing a theoretical examination given by three physicians, one of whom represented the Red Cross Society, another the Protestant Hospital, and the third the general hospitals,—and between 1887 and 1890 twenty such diplomas were given, only three of which went to women actually working in the hospital.

But in 1890 the managers rebelled and determined to give their own diploma and to create a "Free and Gratuitous School for Training Nurses" (the word "free" referring to principles, not to money). The school was begun under the superintendence of Mme. Gros-Droz, one of the holders of a Red Cross diploma, but still a *hospital* training was not established, the pupils all being externes and coming three times a week to lectures. The only service required of them was to assist in the dispensary or out-patient department. The course lasted for two years, and, while between 1890 and 1902 the school had given its diploma to *one hundred and thirteen externe pupils*, there were only *sixteen internes*, or those working in the wards, who had received it. This tells its own tale without more explanation. In 1901, the direction of the hospital and school was confided to Dr. Hamilton, who immediately began to organize the "Hospital School for Nurses." The diploma was henceforth given only to those who had spent the two years in the wards, and was signed by the Chief Surgeon, Vice-President, and the Directress. The male nurses were dismissed; the nurses put into uniform; their quarters were arranged and their sitting

room was the first in France. The ladies were allowed to come to certain lectures but without recognition, and a trained nurse was placed at the head of the staff;—first a Holland nurse, then two Swedish Red Cross Sisters; finally Miss Elston of the London Hospital.

The second Bordeaux School was first established tentatively in 1903 in the St. André Hospital, a large institution of a thousand beds, where Sisters of St. Vincent de Paul, a second religious order, the Soeurs of Nevers, and a secular school of nurses irrespective of religious faith were all to be put through a course of teaching under one head. As may be easily imagined, this attempt could not but fail, and the superintendent of nurses with her secular staff was placed in the Tondu Hospital of one hundred and twenty beds, a general hospital well-built on the pavilion plan, where the success of the school was immediate and lasting.

The Protestant Hospital gave up Miss Elston to the new post and supplied the head nurses to work with her, thus being the parent of the Tondu Training School. From these two schools a network of hospital reform is extending to other towns and cities, where their graduates are taking hospital positions and devoting themselves chiefly to the renovation of nursing services in institutions.

A NURSING TALK TO HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS

By MARY THORNTON FICK
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FOR several years we have been facing a problem in the schools for nurses, namely, the dearth of suitable applicants for training.

Applicants there are, but the standard of education manifested in speech and writing by the majority of them is deplorably low. Driven sometimes to at least give them a trial we often find golden hearts, good judgment and willing hands.

Such candidates demand more patience and much tactful guidance from the principal of the school and the instructress in the various branches, but some good nurses have thus been added to the profession. The increased prosperity of the country may have something to do with the scarcity. The young woman who finds that she must become self-supporting, seems to turn to the more immediately remunerative vocations. A few terms at a business college and she is fitted for office work; a continuation of her studies at school and she is fitted for